

Telemedicine Stroke Consultation

What is the Purpose of Telemedicine?

This hospital is participating in a program where all patients who exhibit stroke symptoms caused by a potential blood clot in the brain now have the opportunity to have an immediate consultation by a stroke neurologist that is located at Research Medical Center in Kansas City, Missouri. The stroke neurologist will be able to view your test results at his/her workstation. Using a live two-way videoconferencing robot, he/she will be able to communicate with you in order to gather more information about your symptoms. The stroke specialist will then be able to confer with and offer their expert recommendations to your doctor regarding your future course of treatment.

If the decision has been made to transfer you to Research Medical Center, the decision is based on the likelihood of having a stroke. The emergency room team has consulted with our telemedicine neurologist and may decide it would be in your best interest to transfer to Research Medical Center. There may be other procedures and treatments that can be done for you at Research Medical Center that are not possible at a smaller hospital. The healthcare team will cooperate to determine which treatment pathway is right for you based upon a variety of factors including your symptoms, how long your symptoms have existed, and your CT scan images.

Acute Stroke Treatment Options

Treatment with t-PA

Together, the healthcare team will decide if you would benefit from receiving a special drug called t-PA (tissue plasminogen activator). This intravenous drug can break up a blood clot and allow blood supply to return to parts of the brain. Treatment with t-PA can greatly improve your condition or prevent it from worsening. If you are given t-PA, there are some serious risks involved including increased bleeding in the brain. Your doctor and the stroke neurologist providing the telemedicine consultation will decide if t-PA is the best treatment for you.

Treatment with IA t-PA and/or Clot Retrieval may also be a possibility once you are transferred to Research Medical Center. You will need to have a CT angiography upon arrival to the hospital. Once this test is performed, the decision will be made. You will then be admitted to one of our stroke specialty units.